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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/809,586	03/15/2001	Brian M. Shirley	303.724US1	3931

7590

11/15/2002

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EXAMINER

PHAN, TRONG Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2818

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/809,586

Applicant(s)

SHIRLEY ET AL.

Examiner

TRONG PHAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 17 September 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature of the memory cores from two of the different ones of the plurality banks are interleaved in a strip/row with the plurality of shared sense amplifiers as recited in claims 1-56 (It should be noted that Fig. 3 of the present invention shows only a plurality of sense amplifiers being shared with a plurality of memory banks. The interleaving operation may not be shown but the claimed interleaving connective relationship of the memory cores and the shared sense amplifiers in a strip/row must be shown) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

It is not understood how the memory cores from two of the different ones of the plurality banks are interleaved in a strip/row with the plurality of shared sense amplifiers as recited in claims 1-56. It should be noted that Fig. 3 of the present invention shows only a plurality of sense amplifiers being shared with a plurality of memory banks. The interleaving connective relationship of the memory cores and the shared sense amplifiers in a strip/row is not shown.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsawa, 5,970,016, in view of Morton, 5,159,572.

Ohsawa, 5,970,016, discloses in Fig. 1 a Rambus DRAM device
(see lines 5-10, column 1) comprising:
a plurality of memory banks BK0 to BK3 each comprising a plurality of memory core blocks MBLK;
a plurality of shared sense amplifiers SS/A;
a plurality of column decoder CDC;
controller (see lines 33-34, column 6; line 24, column 9; line 37, column 12);
an external processor for this Rambus DRAM device must obviously be included as well known in the art.

What is not shown in Fig. 1 of Ohsawa, 5,970,016, is the interleaving connective relationship of the memory cores and the shared sense amplifiers in a strip/row as recited in claims 1-56.

Morton, 5,159,572, discloses in Fig. 3 a DRAM device comprising:
a first memory cell array 26 being interleaved with a second memory cell array 26' in an alternating strip/row/word line fashion (see lines 36-49, column 4).

It would have been obvious under 35 USC 103(a) to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modified Fig. 1 of Ohsawa, 5,970,016, by the teaching as taught in Fig. 3 of Morton, 5,159,572, for the purpose of lower manufacturing cost and reliability (see lines 64-68, column 5 and lines 1-12, column 6 of Morton, 5,159,572).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Barth et al., 6,134,172, Hampel et al., 6,310,814, Hwang, 6,067,270, Naven, 6,418,077, Koike, 5,274,788, and Tsuchida et al., 5,973,991.

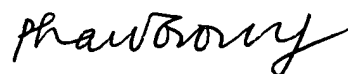
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRONG PHAN whose telephone number is (703) 308-4870. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (703) 308-4910. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-4021 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



**TRONG PHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

November 12, 2002